

LEARNING ABOUT COLLEGE DEGREES AND LIFETIME EARNINGS

Student Learning Objectives

- I will be able to compare and contrast dollar amounts in the millions.
- I will be able to create and solve word problems using addition and subtraction.
- I will be able to look at and make conclusions about census data.

In this activity, we will compare and contrast data from the U.S. Census Bureau about how much money people with different types of college majors make in their lifetimes.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Part 1 – Think About Your Possible College Major

If you go to college in the future, what do you think you will want to study? List your top two possible majors from the types listed in the online tool.

Part 2 – Collect Data

Now our class will pick two types of college majors to explore further. Fill in the blanks below for each major type:

Major #1: _____

According to the census data, with a *bachelor's degree* in this major,

I'll earn about _____ in my lifetime.

According to the census data, with a *master's degree* in this major,

I'll earn about _____ in my lifetime.

According to the census data, with a *professional degree* in this major,

I'll earn about _____ in my lifetime.

According to the census data, with a *doctorate degree* in this major,

I'll earn about _____ in my lifetime.

Major #2: _____

According to the census data, with a *bachelor's degree* in this major,

I'll earn about _____ in my lifetime.

According to the census data, with a *master's degree* in this major,

I'll earn about _____ in my lifetime.

According to the census data, with a *professional degree* in this major,

I'll earn about _____ in my lifetime.

According to the census data, with a *doctorate degree* in this major,

I'll earn about _____ in my lifetime.

Part 3 – Compare Data

Let’s compare the lifetime earnings of people with these two majors using “greater than,” “less than,” or “equal to” symbols and words. Fill in the table below.

Major #1: _____		Comparison < less than > greater than = equal to	Major #2: _____	
Lifetime earnings with a <i>bachelor’s degree</i> :			Lifetime earnings with a <i>bachelor’s degree</i> :	
Lifetime earnings with a <i>master’s degree</i> :			Lifetime earnings with a <i>master’s degree</i> :	
Lifetime earnings with a <i>professional degree</i> :			Lifetime earnings with a <i>professional degree</i> :	
Lifetime earnings with a <i>doctorate degree</i> :			Lifetime earnings with a <i>doctorate degree</i> :	

Part 4 - Write Word Problems

- 1. Pick one major from the two you explored with the class. Now write a word problem to find the difference between the lifetime earnings of a person who has a *doctorate degree* and of a person who has a *bachelor's degree* in that major.

- 2. Solve your word problem. Write the equation you used and check your work using the inverse operation.

Subtraction Equation to Solve My Word Problem	Inverse Operation Equation (Addition) to Check My Answer

3. Now choose a type of college degree — bachelor’s, master’s, professional, or doctorate. Write a word problem to find the difference between the lifetime earnings of a person who earns that degree in Major #1 and in Major #2.

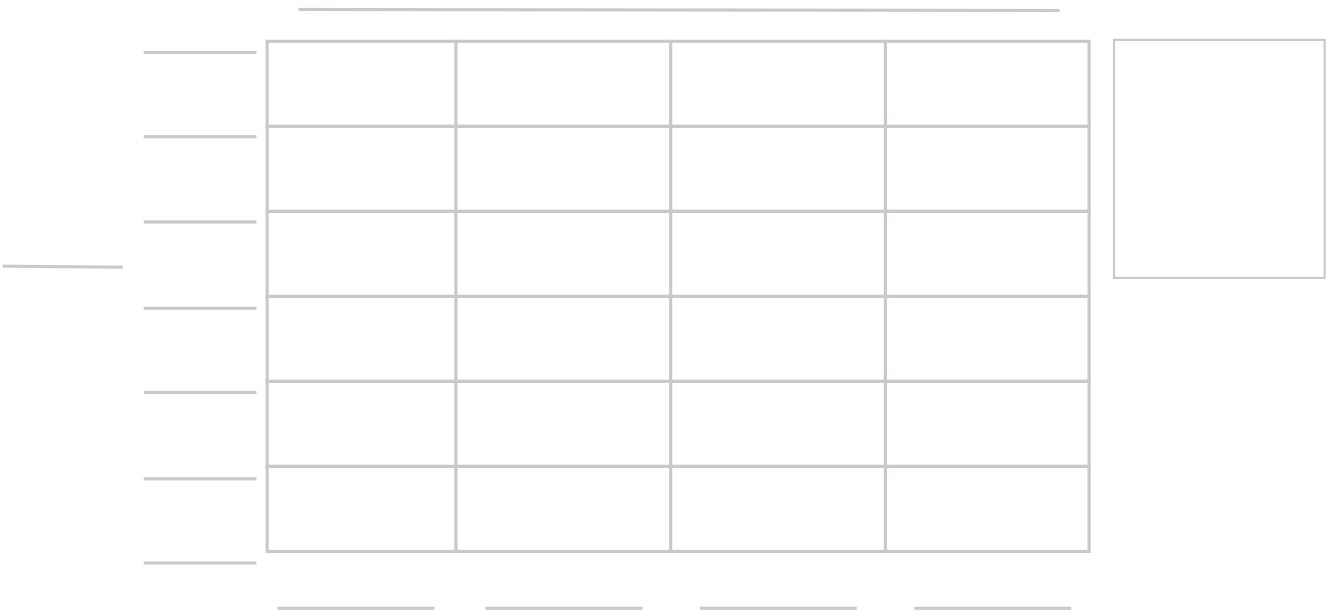
4. Solve your word problem. Again, be sure to write the equation you used and check your work using the inverse operation.

Subtraction Equation to Solve My Word Problem	Inverse Operation Equation (Addition) to Check My Answer

Part 5 - Make Conclusions About Data

Last, we will make a line graph, with lines of two different colors to represent the two different majors. We will put the bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctorate degrees on the left-to-right axis (x-axis), and lifetime earnings on the up-and-down axis (y-axis).

- 1. Let's draw our line graph here:



- 2. What can you see about the data by looking at the line graph?